

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 06636

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, FR

SUBJECT: IEA INVITATIONS TO PREPARATORY MEETING

REF: STATE 57250

1. ECON/COM MIN CONVEYED U.S. VIEWS ON IEA REPRESENTATION AT PREPARATORY MEETING TO CABOUAT WHO, WITH BRUNET RAPIDLY PHASING OUT AND WITH NO SUCCESSOR YET NAMED, IS THE SENIOR QUAI OFFICIAL FOR ENERGY QUESTIONS. CABOUAT IMMEDIATELY REACTED THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE IEA TO HAVE ITS OWN NAMEPLATE. HE SAID THE FRENCH POSITION, AS DE GUIRINGAUD HAD PUT IT TO ENDERS ON MARCH 7, WAS THAT, WHILE THE IEA COULD BE REPRESENTED IN ITS OWN RIGHT, IT SHOULD SHARE A NAMEPLATE WITH THE OECD (THAT IS, THERE WOULD BE A SINGLE NAMEPLATE WITH THE SEPARATE ACRONYMS OECD AND IEA APPEARING ON IT). CABOUAT ADDED THAT THE GOF HAD NO PROBLEM WITH SENDING SEPARATE INVITATIONS TO VAN LENNEP FOR THE OECD, WHO WOULD PRESUMABLY SEND A REPRESENTATIVE, AND TO DAVIGNON, WHO WOULD ATTEND IN HIS CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE IEA.

2. ECON/COM MIN ASKED WHETHER THIS FORMULA HAD BEEN DISCUSSED WITH DAVIGNON. CABOUAT SAID IT HAD NOT. ECON/COM MIN ASKED HOW DAVIGNON HAD PHRASED HIS REQUEST FOR REPRESENTATION. CABOUAT, READING FROM DAVIGNON'S
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LETTER TO THE GOF, SAID HE HAD ASKED THAT THE IEA OF THE

OECD BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE AT THE PREPARATORY MEETING BUT HAD SAID NOTHING ABOUT NAMEPLATES.

3. ECON/COM MIN ASKED CABOUATWHY, SINCE THE GOF WAS WILLING TO INVITE DAVIGNON TO REPRESENT THE IEA IN ITS OWN NAME, IT OBJECTED TO SEPARATE NAMEPLATES. CABOUAT SAID THERE WERE TWO REASONS. THE FIRST WAS THAT TWO SEPARATE NAMEPLATES WOULD CREATE THE IMPRESSION THE IEA AND THE OECD WERE TWO SEPARATE ORGANIZATIONS. THE GOF ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE FACT THAT THE IEA WAS PART OF THE OECD. SECONDLY, THIS IMPRESSION THAT THE OECD AND THE IEA WERE TWO SEPARATE ORGANIZATIONS WOULD CREATE AN APPEARANCE OF IMBALANCE BETWEEN THE CONSUMERS (WITH TWO ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTED) AND THE PRODUCERS (WITH ONLY ONE -- OPEC). LIMITING ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATION TO THE IEA WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTABLE BECAUSE THE GOF INSISTED THAT THE OECD BE REPRESENTED IN ITS OWN RIGHT AS WELL AS THROUGH THE IEA. IN REPLY, ECON/COM MIN REPEATED OUR VIEWS PER REFTTEL.

4. CABOUAT MADE IT CLEAR THROUGHOUT THE CONVERSATION THAT THE FRENCH FELT VERY STRONGLY ON THIS MATTER. HOWEVER, HE ASSURED ECON/COM MIN HE WOULD CONVEY OUR VIEWS AT ONCE TO FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES. ECON/COM MIN TOLD CABOUAT HE WOULD COMMUNICATE GOF VIEWS TO WASHINGTON AND BE IN TOUCH WITH HIM AGAIN.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WHILE THERE MAY BE CONSIDERATIONS WHICH FROM THE DEPARTMENT'S PERSPECTIVE MAKE THE FRENCH PROPOSAL UNACCEPTABLE, IT APPEARS TO US, FROM OUR LIMITED VANTAGE POINT, TO REPRESENT THE KIND OF FORMULA WHICH ASSISTANT SECRETARY ENDERS TOLD DE GUIRINGAUD AT THEIR MARCH 7 MEETING THE "INGENUITY OF DIPLOMATS" SHOULD BE ABLE TO DEVISE. SINCE GOF IS DEFERRING ACTION ON ISSUING INVITATIONS TO THE OECD AND THE IEA UNTIL THIS QUESTION HAS BEEN RESOLVED WITH US, WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING THE DEPARTMENT'S REACTION TO THE FOREGOING AND FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
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